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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/724,445	11/26/2003	Jorge R. Serrano	C0034	1197

21495 7590 12/01/2005
CORNING CABLE SYSTEMS LLC
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EXAMINER

MAYO, TARA L

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3671

DATE MAILED: 12/01/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/724,445

Applicant(s)

SERRANO ET AL.

Examiner

Tara L. Mayo

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 September 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 and 38-45 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 and 38-45 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 29 and 31-36 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 13 September 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The prior objections to the drawings have been overcome by the response filed 13 September 2005.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

3. Claims 29 and 31 through 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Searby (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2005/0074293 A1).

Searby '293 disclose a method for placing a duct in a surface comprising the steps of:
with regard to claim 29,

forming a channel of predetermined width in the surface; and

placing the duct into the channel, thereby forming a friction fit between the duct and the channel over a portion of the length of the cut, wherein the duct has a diameter greater than the predetermined width of the channel (paragraph 0033); and

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with regard to claim 32,

further comprising the step of placing a filling material into the channel that overlies the duct, thereby at least partially filling the channel and covering the duct (paragraph 0029).

Searby '293 fails to teach:

the surface being a paved surface;

routing at least one fiber optic cable within the duct;

the duct comprising an inner tube and a jacket, the jacket being formed of a compressible, heat-resistant material; and

the duct being of non-round cross section.

With regard to claim 29, the method disclosed by Searby '293 is capable of being performed on a paved surface. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art of cable laying at the time of invention to modify the method disclosed by Searby '293 such that it would have been performed on a paved surface instead of turf. The motivation would have been to minimize scarring of the paved surface.

With regard to claim 29, it is a well known expedient to form ducts of inner tubes and jackets.

With regard to claims 29 and 31, Searby '293 fails to teach a ratio between a channel width and a major dimension of the duct being about 0.95 or less. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art of conduits at the time the invention was made through routine experimentation and optimization to determine an optimal width of the channel relative

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to the duct. The motivation would have been to effect a desired fit of the duct within the channel. Furthermore, it has been held that in the absence of a showing by Applicant that particular dimensions recited in the claims are critical or provide an unexpected result, the limitations are met by the prior art which is capable of being manufactured to the claimed dimensions. *In re Woodruff*, 919 F.2d 1575, 16 USPQ2d 1934 (Fed. Cir. 1990).

With regard to claim 33, because routing fiber optic cables through ducts is a well known expedient in the art, it would have been obvious for one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify the method disclosed by Searby '293 such that it would further include the step. The motivation would have been to establish a path for communication lines in the underground duct as desired.

With regard to claim 34, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to make the jacket a foamed material to provide for compression during installation in the channel.

With regard to claim 35, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to make the jacket from a heat resistant material to protect the lines carried by the duct from damage caused by increased temperature.

With regard to claim 36, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to make the duct of non-round cross section to provide for enhanced anchoring in the channel.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 1 through 14 and 38 through 45 are allowed.

5. As allowable subject matter has been indicated, applicant's reply must either comply with all formal requirements or specifically traverse each requirement not complied with. See 37 CFR 1.111(b) and MPEP § 707.07(a).

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments filed 13 September 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

With regard to claim 29, Applicant fails to show the criticality of the claimed dimensions.

Conclusion

7. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tara L. Mayo whose telephone number is 571-272-6992. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas B. Will can be reached on 571-272-6998. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



27 November 2005



Thomas B. Will
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Group 0200